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HOUSE BILL 721
By Brooks

AN ACT relative to human rights and to amend Tennessee Code
Annotated.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created the joint task force on human rights. The members of the task force shall be composed of the deputy governor, commissioner of finance and administration, commissioner of economic and community development, comptroller of the treasury, attorney general and reporter, chairs and vice chairs of the finance ways and means committees of the house and senate, chair of the caucus of black legislators, and two (2) members of the house and senate appointed by the respective speakers thereof. The office of the comptroller of the treasury shall provide staff assistance to the task force.

SECTION 2. The purpose of the task force is to undertake a review of the purposes, activities and operations of the human rights commission created by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-201, and to develop recommendations relative thereto. The task force shall make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly not later than January 15, 2002. The task force's findings and

recommendations shall include its estimates of the budget resources necessary for the human rights commission to fulfill its mission.

SECTION 3. In conducting its review, the task force shall solicit input from current and former members and staff of the human rights commission; federal funding entities; members of the general public; audit reports relative to the operations of the human rights commission; information from other states; and, any other sources as may be deemed appropriate by the task force. Each state agency shall, upon request, cooperate with requests for information and/or assistance from the task force.

SECTION 4. The legislative members of the task force shall be entitled per diem and expenses as otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it, and is repealed effective June 30, 2002.